

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 21, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and this response addresses the Examiner's concerns stated in the office action.

Claims 8, and 11-28 are now pending. Claims 1-7, 9, and 10 have been canceled without prejudice. Dependent claim 8, which has not been rejected by the Examiner, has been rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of base claim 6 with the exception of the phrase "being substantially devoid of anti-static properties." Claim 11, which has not been rejected by the Examiner on art, has been amended to overcome 35 USC §112, paragraphs 1 and 2 rejections by deleting the phrase "being substantially devoid of anti-static properties." Claims 12-28 were also not rejected by the Examiner on art. It is therefore respectfully submitted by Applicant that the claims not rejected by prior art contain allowable subject matter.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-28 under 35 USC §112, paragraphs 1 and 2, with regards to the phrase "being substantially devoid of anti-static properties" and the term "yarn-like." In particular, independent claims 1, 6, and 11 recite the phrase "being substantially devoid of anti-static properties," and independent claim 1 recites the term "yarn-like." Dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, and 12-28 depend from independent claims 1, 6, and 11, respectively. Applicant has canceled claims 1-7, 9, and 10 without prejudice. Applicant has rewritten dependent claim 8 into independent form to include the limitations of base claim 6 with the exception of the phrase "being substantially devoid of anti-static properties." Claim 11 has been amended to overcome 35 USC §112, paragraphs 1 and 2, rejections by deleting the phrase "being substantially devoid of anti-static properties." Independent claims 8 and 11 are now believed to be in condition for allowance since there is no prior art rejections against them. Claims 12-28, which

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depend from now allowable claim 11, are also believed to be allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the Amendment/Response under 37 CFR 1.116 and withdraw the 35 USC §112, paragraphs 1 and 2 rejections with regards to the claims 8 and 11-28 since this Amendment/Response places this application in condition for immediate allowance.

Consequently, (1) since the now presented amendment, without the addition of new matter or necessitating a new search, overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 112 objections to the specification and the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections of all cited claims, and (2) since no rejection remains based on art, this amendment should be entered because it places the present application in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

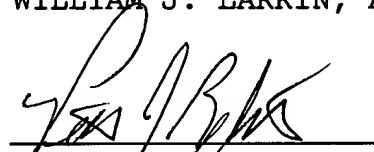
Since the claims presently in this application fall within the numbers of originally and subsequently filed and paid for claims, no additional claim fees are due. The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies to or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2410, Order No. 13445-102.

In accordance with Section 714.01 of the M.P.E.P., the following information is presented in the event that a call may be deemed desirable by the Examiner: PETER J. BORGHETTI (617) 854-4000.

Dated: February 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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